

June 27, 2014

Weekly Views

Doug Evans, PEN Reentry/Operations Manager, joined Francina Carter, National Program Director for the National Institute of Correction (NIC), (photo right) at the 69th Annual International Correctional Education Association conference in Washington D.C. to present a workshop to unveil NIC's latest reentry initiative, The Employer-Driven Model and Toolkit. Doug was part of an eight person work group that developed this model last summer. The model and toolkit presents today's most effective practices in preparing



offenders to meet the expectations of employers. The official release will be in conjunction with the "Champions of Change" program at the White House on Monday, June 30. During the conference, U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary Gerri Fiala spoke to the attendees on the value of Registered Apprenticeship inside the correctional system and singled out the Indiana Department of what can be accomplished by offenders during incarceration. She cited several statistics and praised the program for the difference it is making in individual lives.

Chris Stilwell, Principal at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Providence Jr. /Sr. High School, has been selected as Principal of the Year by the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. Mr. Stilwell was recognized for his leadership in the improvement and expansion of educational opportunities at the facility, which includes seeking input from students and their families.



Bikers gathered around the flag pole at Miami Correctional Facility (photo left), ready to set off on the annual Employee Appreciation Ride. The ride attracted 20 bikes and 29 riders. The 2014 Ride went on a scenic route southwest to Whitestown, IN, taking riders to Kokomo Harley Davidson, Adams Mill and on various scenic roads. The ride was 103 miles, ending at LA Cycles and the LA Café for Dinner & Prizes before heading home.

New creations are underway in Putnamville Correctional Facility's newly remodeled greenhouse! A fully functioning classroom and hot house has allowed Teacher Brenda Gullett to instruct her horticulture class on not only growing various plants, vegetables, and trees, but also how to turn no longer usable items into fantastic art pieces! New Birdhouses, ladybugs, and standing flower beds are just a few of the items made by

offenders in this program, displaying fantastic artwork and growth! (photo below)

"We could not do it without your help!" That's the word from Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Community Services Director Michele Lincoln, talking about facility volunteers. Wabash said "Thank you!" during the 17th annual Volunteer Banquet. Among the award winners were Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) volunteers Dan Ashby and Mike Freeman. They, along with 373 other volunteers, devote countless hours to the offender re-entry process, helping in such areas as substance abuse, programs and religious services. Both are also featured in a nationally distributed documentary about volunteers called "Through the Door." WVCF Recreation Coordinator Mike Miller was also honored with the Special Thanks for Program Assistance award.



Last week several Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility staff received recognition for outstanding service and work ethic. Captain Angela Blakey was awarded the Supervisor of the Quarter recognition. William Brown received Officer of the Quarter. Training Coordinator Michael Enzinger was nominated Employee of the Quarter, and Officer Craig Lovins was awarded the Enabling Others to Act distinction.

The Indiana Women's Prison hosted an Oakland City University semi-annual graduation ceremony in the facility's chapel. The students recognized during the graduation earned certificates in Business Technology, Culinary Arts, Problem Solving, High School Equivalency Diploma, and Bachelor of Arts. There were a total of 116 students recognized with family and friends attending the ceremony.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility held a Staff Assembly meeting and Employee Appreciation Dinner, which had to be rescheduled during Employee Appreciation Week due to bad weather. Everyone enjoyed BBQ ribs, chicken and hotdogs with baked beans, potato salad, green beans, rolls, pies and cupcakes. During the meeting, Eddy Ortiz, Executive Director of Human Resources, gave a presentation about the new Wellness Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP). Sergeant Jeffry Smith, Sergeant Renisea Hoffman, Officer Anthony Ruse and Rebecca Cornett were each awarded a Cash Spot Bonus for exemplary service. Marysol Serrano, Aramark Food Service Director, was selected as the Employee of the Quarter.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Superintendent Commons announced the promotion of Youth Development Sergeant Eric Coffin to Youth Development Lieutenant. Lieutenant Coffin started his employment at Pendleton Juvenile in December 2006. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2012.

Superintendent Commons states, "We are looking forward to the leadership and impact you will have on the staff and students at our facility."